

REMARKS

In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner required surrender of the original patent or an offer to surrender the original patent. Applicants submit such an offer herewith.

The Examiner required that status information in the specification be updated. Applicants have updated the first sentence of the application to include the serial number of this application.

The Examiner required applicants to correct the format of changes to the Abstract to show deletions using double brackets. Applicants have done so.

The Examiner alleged that the declaration filed on September 23, 2004 was defective and rejected claims 18 and 19 for this reason. Applicants include with this response a copy of a signed declaration by James Kelly and an unsigned declaration of Michael Regal. Although, as understood by the undersigned, Michael Regal is willing to sign a declaration, he has not yet done so. When applicants obtain a signed declaration, they will forward it to the Examiner. Examiner Ray indicated in a telephonic interview of December 22, 2004 that this was acceptable to him.

The Examiner objected to claim 19. Applicants have added the word "and" as required by the Examiner.

The Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claim 18 to correct the language noted by the Examiner.

Applicants have added claims 20-26.

Claims 18-26 are pending. The Examiner has indicated that claims 18 and 19 are allowable if the above-noted matters are corrected.

Respectfully submitted,

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